

Application No. 10/602,025
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116
Reply to Office Action dated November 1, 2007
February 1, 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Figs. 1 and 5 have been amended to include reference numeral 12 and its associated lead line for identifying the "second hemostatic valve". Therefore, please replace these drawing sheets for the original drawing sheets including Figs. 1 and 5.

Attachments: Replacement Drawing Sheets for Figs 1 and 5

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REMARKS

By this amendment, claim 3 has been cancelled and claims 1 and 5 have been amended in the application. Currently, claims 1 and 5-7 are pending in the application.

The drawings were objected to because the "second hemostatic valve" must be shown or the features cancelled from the claims.

By this amendment, Figs. 1 and 5 have been amended to include reference numeral "12" and the associated lead line to identify the second hemostatic valve. Also the specification has been amended to include the reference numeral "12" for the second hemostatic valve on page 6, line 4. It is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw these drawing objections.

The specification was objected to because applicant's claims recited "an opposite connector" and "an engage means" and because the Examiner believed that there was no support and language in the specification for these specific terms.

By this amendment, the specification has been amended to specifically add antecedent basis in the specification for these terms which were already previously disclosed by different names (the screw thread portion and the connector of the auxiliary

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apparatus). Specifically, the specification has been amended to recite --also known as an engaging means-- on page 5, lines 14-15 and --also known as an opposite connector-- on page 9, lines 13-14. It is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw these objections to the specification.

Claim 3 and 5 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten into independent from including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this amendment, claim 3 has been cancelled and the subject matter of claim 3 has been included in independent claim 1. Also, claim 5 has been amended to be dependent on independent claim 1.

Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because the Examiner could not understand the "opposite connector" and the "engaging means" features of these claims. As indicated above, the specification has been amended to specifically recite the terms "an opposite connector" and "an engage means" and it is believed that their meanings are now clear and definite and it is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

Claims 1 was rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Brimhall et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,722,636). This

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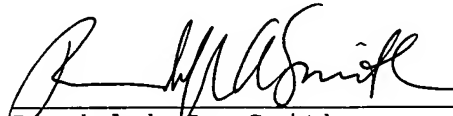
rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the amendments to the claims including the allowable subject matter of allowable claim 3.

In view of the amendments, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 5-7 are now allowable over the prior art of record. Thus, applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance and an action to this effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding the amendments or these remarks, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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